

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE ST. MARY'S COLLEGE SAILING TEAM ON WINNING TWO 2007 NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, as the Washington Post so aptly put it last month, "tiny colleges in rural Southern Maryland aren't supposed to win national championships in anything." But apparently, no one told that to the young men and women of the St. Mary's College sailing team, who won two out of the three legs of the NCAA sailing "triple crown" in 2007.

The Lady Seahawks swept the national title in convincing fashion—besting the next closest competitor by 44 points—and leading sailor and Olympic hopeful, Adrienne Patterson, was named female sailor of the year. In the team race, St. Mary's prevailed in a much closer battle, beating a very strong Yale team by a score of 12 to 11. And while the Seahawk sailors fell just short of their goal of winning all three major sailing championships in one year by taking the coed national title as well, they still managed to finish sixth in that leg of the competition and cement their place among the elite sailing teams throughout all of the NCAA.

St. Mary's College had won 10 national titles entering the 2007 season—and its performance in this year's NCAA championships is proof positive its legacy of greatness is not only intact, but growing stronger with each passing year.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the 2007 St. Mary's College Seahawks, their fans, their friends and their families. And I wish them all continued success in whatever life holds in store.

PASSPORT BACKLOG REDUCTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 16, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation. The passport backlog has affected millions of people's travel plans, and I know in Houston, our district offices have been receiving calls on nearly a daily basis from constituents whose travel plans have been affected by the delay.

I visited the Houston Passport Office last month, and was amazed to learn people were arriving there hours before the office opened in order to get service. The staff at the Houston office has been working nights and weekends to clear the backlog, but there is only so much they can do.

Despite having known this increase would be coming since Congress passed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, the Administration did not prepare for this increase and as a result, State Department employees and the American public is paying the price.

This was only the first phase of implementing the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative—the second phase, which will require all individuals traveling to or from the United States by land and sea, could see an even larger demand for passports, especially in border states like Texas where people have friends and family across the border.

Last week, Maura Harty, Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Consular Affairs, testified in front of the House Foreign Affairs Committee that her office anticipates the demand for passports will continue to grow and will be approximately 23 million in 200, and as high as 30 million by 2010.

The State Department must now do what they should have done over the last six months to a year, and hire additional employees to handle what appears will be a permanent increase in the number of passport applications they will be receiving annually.

This bill alleviates some of the backlog, but the State Department needs to ensure they have the people and systems in place to prevent this from happening in the future. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 966.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on rollcall vote number 621, agreeing to H. Res. 533 which was to provide for consideration of H.R. 2956. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

PASSPORT BACKLOG REDUCTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 16, 2007

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, S. 966 will help provide relief for the massive influx of passport applications due to a change in passport rules. This problem has frustrated many constituents in all of our districts.

Last week, the House Foreign Affairs Committee held a hearing focusing on this issue. As a result of questions I raised, it became apparent to Members of the Committee that the demands on the Bureau of Consular Affairs to get passports to Americans as fast as possible does raise fraud concerns. While the

number of adjudicators has gone up, the number charged with investigating passport fraud, has not.

In that respect, I'd like to thank Chairman LANTOS for including additional language that would allow for the hiring of retirees to assist in investigation of fraud in connection with an application for a passport. These additional investigators are critical, as many times they uncover a broader fraud ring. We should be able to serve Americans in a timely matter and ensure their security. This bill will help do that.

PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, yesterday, the House voted on a measure that would require public sector employees at the State and local level to set up a system of monopoly bargaining. H.R. 980, the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act, is well-intended, as are most bills that come before this body. Yet its effects would be profoundly negative, both on fire and police departments nationwide and on the way Congress operates with respect to our most fundamental allegiance, the Federal Constitution.

As we all know, the tenth amendment to the Constitution states, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved for the States respectively, or to the people." Yet with H.R. 980, Congress is plainly overriding carefully crafted State labor laws with a single stroke. This bill dictates to States how they must deal with unionization issues, which is a serious abridgement of the role of Congress envisioned by our Founders.

We took an oath here, Madam Speaker—an oath to uphold a Constitution that does not give us the power to ride roughshod over States whenever it strikes our fancy.

Moreover, the practical effect of this legislation would be disastrous. As the International Chiefs of Police have noted, "By mandating a 'one-size fits all' approach to labor-management relations, H.R. 980 ignores the fact that every jurisdiction has unique needs and therefore requires the freedom to manage its public safety workforce in the manner that they have determined to be the most effective."

Worse yet, H.R. 980 would give the Federal Labor Relations Board the responsibility of overseeing labor-management laws in virtually every jurisdiction in the Nation, from municipalities to counties to States.

Not only is Congress extending its meddling arms into matters reserved by the Constitution for the States, but now, some of my friends across the aisle want to cut funding for the only Federal agency that reviews union

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